

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**1:24-MC-5**

**IN RE: EXEMPTION OF  
ELECTRONIC  
PUBLIC ACCESS FEES**

**FILED**  
Charlotte  
Aug 02 2024  
U.S. District Court  
Western District of N.C.

**ORDER**


This matter is before the Court upon application and request by Mr. Arthur Smith for exemptions from the fees imposed by the Electronic Public Access fee schedule adopted by the Judicial Conference of the United States Courts.

The Court finds that Mr. Smith is a PhD candidate at Kent State University conducting research into judgements in criminal cases with the goal to build a machine learning algorithm to predict sentencing of individuals in the federal court system. He is looking to review 600 cases focused on criminal judgements with specific interest in health care fraud and controlled substance dispensing and distribution.

He qualifies for an exemption, and one is needed to avoid unreasonable burden and promote public access. He shall be exempt from the payment of fees for access via PACER to the electronic case files maintained in this Court, to the extent such use is incurred in the course of this limited request. He shall not be exempt from the payment of fees incurred in connection with other uses of the PACER system in this court. Additionally, the following limitations apply:

1. This fee exemption applies only to Mr. Smith and is valid only for the purposes stated above.
2. This fee exemption applies only to the electronic files of this Court that are available through the PACER system.
3. By accepting this exemption, Mr. Smith agrees not to sell for profit any data obtained because of receiving this exemption.
4. Mr. Smith is prohibited from transferring any data obtained because of receiving this exemption, including redistribution via internet-based databases; and
5. **This exemption is authorized until August 1, 2025.**

This exemption may be revoked at the discretion of the Court at any time. Pursuant to Judicial Conference policy, the Clerk shall review the usage of the account as part of the Court financial audit process. The Clerk is DIRECTED to provide a copy of this Order to the PACER Service Center and Mr. Smith.

Dated: 8/2/2024  
  
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Martin Reidinger, Chief  
U.S. District Judge

**Account Smith 5877100.**